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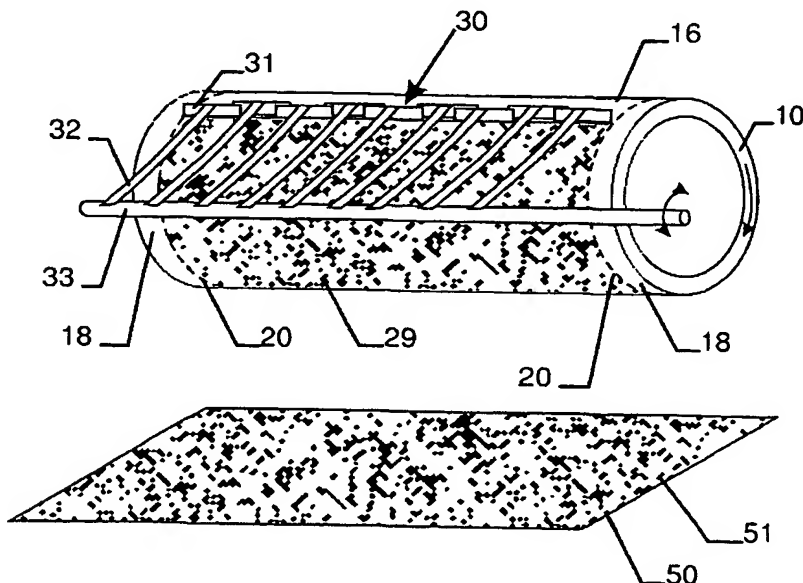
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ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: CONTACTING OF AN ELECTRODE WITH A DEVICE IN VACUUM



(57) Abstract: A method for improving the sputter deposition process is provided. The method comprises the following steps: a) providing a vacuum; b) providing an electrode (10, 34, 34', 44, 44') in the provided vacuum; c) providing a substrate in said vacuum, said substrate having no contact with said electrodes (10, 34, 34', 44, 44') d) providing a device (22, 22', 24, 24', 26, 26', 28, 28', 30, 36, 36', 48, 48') in the vacuum. The device is in relative motion to the electrode and is in contact with the electrode over a contact zone. The device removes solid material from the electrode or applies solid material to the electrode. The method is carried out by means of a simple mechanism. There is no need for complicated electronics or sophisticated control algorithms. The method is carried out in vacuum, i.e. there is no need

to break the vacuum, so that the machine downtime is reduced.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
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According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, INSPEC, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 2002/127861 A1 (CHEN TA-BIN ET AL) 12 September 2002 (2002-09-12) paragraphs '0025! - '0029!; claims 6-10	1-17
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 012, no. 223 (C-507), 24 June 1988 (1988-06-24) & JP 63 018074 A (TEIJIN LTD), 25 January 1988 (1988-01-25) abstract	

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☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 2002127861	A1	12-09-2002	US 6358851 B1	19-03-2002
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